

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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NESCO FOR ATTENTION OF HOLLEY MACK BELL

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION USIA INFO SECSTATE FROM CARACAS
MAY 27:

QUOTE CARACAS 5965

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SUBJ: PRES PEREZ POSITION ON UNESCO RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL
PRESS CONTROL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UPI DISPATCH OF 25 MAY FROM CARACAS,
ON PRESIDENT PEREZ' COMMENTS VIS-A-VIS UNESCO RESOLUTION ON
INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONTROL: BEGIN TEXT:

2. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA BELIEVES THAT
THE COMMUNICATION MEDIA SHOULD BE "SUBMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL
REGULATION." PEREZ MADE THE FOLLOWING STATE TO A GROUP
OF JOURNALISTS IN A CARACAS PRESS CONFERENCE HELD DURING THE
CURRENT MEETING OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC
JOURNALISTS.

3. "VENEZUELA HAS SUPPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE
UNESCO INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
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ON COMMUNICATIONS. IN FACT, I BELIEVE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT

AND ALL GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD SHOULD GIVE PRIMARY CONCERN TO THE SLANT (ORIENTACION) THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA GIVE THE NEWS. WE KNOW VERY WELL THAT OUR WORLD IS GOING THROUGH SOMETHING THAT I CALL A NEWS EXPLOSION, SOMETHING WHICH NO ONE CAN CHANGE. BOTH TELEVISION AND RADIO HAVE CREATED A SITUATION TODAY IN WHICH ALL THE NEWS REACHES THE FARTHESET CORNER OF THE WORLD AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT REACHES THE GREAT CENTERS OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE. THIS MEANS THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA CAN DO A GREAT DEAL FOR GOOD OR FOR ILL. FOR THIS REASON IT IS NECESSARY THAT THEY BE SUBJECT TO AN INTERNATIONAL REGULATION. WE CANNOT IGNORE...THE RESPONSIBILITY OR IRRESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH A COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES CAN MANAGE THE NEWS, BECAUSE TODAY THERE IS NO WAY THAT WE CAN PUT UP BOUNDARIES TO THE NEWS. WE CAN LIMIT THE ENTRANCE OF PERSONS AND OF GOODS, BUT WE CANNOT IMPEDE THE ENTRANCE, TO ANY COUNTRY, OF INFORMATION, AND FOR THIS REASON IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT THE UNESCO CONFERENCE TAKE PLACE.

4. "ON THE OTHER HAND, AS I SAID SEVERAL DAYS AGO, IT IS ONE THING TO TALK ABOUT THE RIGHT OF EXPRESS OPINIONS, WHICH OUGHT TO BE ABSOLUTE AND TOTAL, AND ANOTHER THING TO TALK ABOUT THE RIGHT TO INFORM, WHICH OUGHT TO BE SACRED; THAT IS TO SAY, THAT ONE SHOULD INFORM ONLY THE TRUTH". END TEXT.

COMMENT: THE UNESCO RESOLUTION HAS BEEN DEBATED STRONGLY IN VENEZUELA. RECENTLY, THE VENEZUELAN RADIO BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION SPONSORED A ONE-WEEK SEMINAR WHERE THE PROPOSAL WAS DENOUNCED AS A MEANS BY WHICH GOVERNMENTS CAN LIMIT THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. THE VENEZUELAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH THE RESOLUTION, WITHOUT MAKING IT A CAUSE CLEBRE FOR THE MOMENT. GOV SPOKESMEN (THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION) HAVE ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF THE PROPOSAL WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, DENIED VIGOROUSLY ANY GOV DESIRE TO MANAGE THE NEWS. HIGGINS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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